

CHANGE TO DECISION RECORD FOR KIGER GORGE FENCE

Change Date: August 22, 2003

Original Decision Date: July 24, 2003

On this date I hereby change the Decision Record to include only that portion of the Kiger Gorge No-Livestock Grazing Fence to be constructed and maintained on private lands and Wilderness Study Area lands, and eliminate the portion of the decision that would affect Wilderness. Associated access and use easements on private lands and on non-Wilderness public lands remain a part of this decision. A decision to access, construct, and maintain a Wilderness Fence to preclude livestock from the No-Livestock Wilderness in the Steens Mountain Wilderness will be deferred until interested parties have a chance to negotiate a fence design and construction and maintenance details for the Wilderness portion of the fence beginning with discussion at the September 16, 2003 Steens Mountain Advisory Council meeting in Bend, Oregon.

The deferral of the Wilderness fence decision was requested by representatives of the Alvord Coalition, Sierra Club, Oregon Natural Desert Association and Wilderness Watch.

This deferral recognizes that due to constraints of weather and terrain, as well as the potential for a lengthy negotiation process, the No-Livestock Fence has little chance of being completed in Kiger Gorge before livestock turnout on private lands beginning in July 2004. This decision will be implemented following the close of the appeal period (August 24, 2003), unless appealed, for the western portion of the Kiger Gorge Fence only, and includes the decision to access, construct and maintain the private land and Wilderness Study Area portions of the fence.

The change to this decision will allow the majority of the No-Livestock Grazing fence to be constructed as soon as possible, and defers only the decision on the Wilderness portion of the fence.

/S/ Karla Bird

August 22, 2003